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BLACKROD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1966

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May, 1967



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BLACKROD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:- Councillor W. Chadwick

Members:- Councillors C. C. Cutler; J. Foster;
J. Jolley, J.P.; J. K. Jolley; J. Marshall;
F. Makinson; L. Watkinson and R. Winstanley.

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Public Health Officer of the Authority

Medical Officer of Health

E. Taylor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Divisional Health Office,
Leigh Road, LEIGH.

Telephone: Leigh 73227/8/9

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Public Health Inspector

J. F. Wood, M.A.P.H.I.

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Also Divisional Medical Officer,

Divisional Health Committee No. 11
Lancashire County Council

Divisional School Medical Officer

Lancashire County Council

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Council Offices,
BLACKROD,
Bolton.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Blackrod Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report on
the Health of the District for the year 1966.

The vital statistics are most encouraging. During the
year there were no infant deaths and no maternal deaths and
only one still birth.

In considering such a relatively small population there
is a liability for large fluctuations in rates calculated per
1,000 births, etc., but by any standard the past years
statistics are outstanding.

The live birth rate of 23.7 per 1,000 population compares
very favourably with the national figure of 17.7 and with last
years of 15.9.

More deaths occurred in 1966 than the recent averages. The
increase affected both male and females and was mainly attributable
to diseases of the circulatory system which accounted for just over
a half of the total. The death rate of 16.3 is to be compared with
the national figure of 14.7 per 1,000 population.

I am much indebted for the help and cooperation from my
colleagues in the Council Offices and for the support from the
Council.

Yours faithfully,

E. TAYLOR

Medical Officer of Health

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	2,392.4 acres
Population Census 1961	3,600
Population Estimated mid 1965 ⁶	4,530
No. of inhabited dwellings at end of 1965	1,499
Rateable Value	£111,562
Sum represented by a penny rate	£429
Social Conditions - No material change	

BIRTHS

	Total	Males	Females
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Live Births:

Legitimate	104	51	53
Illegitimate	3	2	1
	—	—	—
	107	53	54
	—	—	—

Live birth rate per 1,000 23.7

Adjusted birth rate 21.3

Still Births:

Legitimate	1	NIL	1
Illegitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
	—	—	—
	1	NIL	1
	—	—	—

Still birth rate per 1,000 total births .. 9.3

Total Births: 108; Males: 53; Females: 55.

DEATHS

Infant Deaths (under 1 year)	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Illegitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	Nil
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	Nil
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	Nil
Early neo-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ..	Nil
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total births	9.3
Mortality Rates per 1,000 estimated population :-	

Total (All Forms)

Crude Rate	12.6
Adjusted Rate	16.3
Respiratory T.B.	Nil
Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	1.99

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1966

	Males	Females	Total
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic Neoplasms	3	4	7
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	4	8
Coronary disease, angina	7	3	10
Hypertension with heart disease	1	3	4
Other heart disease	1	7	8
Bronchitis	5	1	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	1	4
Motor vehicle accidents	-	1	1
All other accidents	-	2	2
Suicide	1	-	1
	—	—	—
Total all causes	30	27	57
	—	—	—

Transferable Deaths included in the above

S E C T I O N B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Ambulance Service

Tel. Swinton 4343

Care of Children - Children Act 1948

Children's Committee, Lancashire County Council

Area Children's Officer - Mr. K. R. Harding

Ashfield Park Drive, Standish. Tel. Standish 3147

Clinics

1. Ante Natal and Post Natal

164 New Street, Blackrod.

Thursdays, 9-10 a.m. Friday 2-4 p.m.

2. Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Poliomyelitis and
Small Pox Immunisation.

164 New Street, Blackrod.

1st and 3rd Tuesday in month - 1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

3. Child Welfare

164 New Street, Blackrod.

Doctor present

1st and 3rd Thursdays in month

2-4 p.m.

1st and 3rd Tuesday in month

1.30 to 3.30 p.m.

4. Ophthalmic

School Health Clinic, Jones Street, Horwich

Market Street, Westhoughton

} By
appointment

5. Orthopaedic

School Health Clinic, Jones Street, Horwich

Market Street, Westhoughton

} By
appointment

6. Tuberculosis Dispensary and Chest Clinic

Darley Street, Farnworth.

7. Venereal Disease

i) Civic Centre, Bolton

Males - Mon. to Fri. 9-30 to 12-30 p.m.

Mon., Wed., Fri. 4-30 to 7 p.m.

Females - Tues., Thurs., Sat. 9-30 to 12-30 a.m.

Mon., Wed., Fri. 4-30 to 7 p.m.

ii) Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan

Males - Fri. 2-0 to 6-30 p.m.

Females - Wed. 2 to 6 p.m.

Urgent Cases: Mon. to Fri. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sat. 9 to 11-30 a.m., 4-30 to 7 p.m.

8. Convalescence

Under arrangements made by Lancashire County Council
Apply Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh.

9. Convelescent Treatment

Under arrangements by the Regional Hospital Board

10. Health Visiting Service

Health Visitors/School Nurses are employed in the District
by Lancashire County Council

11. Home Help Service

Under arrangements made by the Lancashire County Council.
Apply to Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road.

12. Home Nursing Service

District Nurses are employed in the district by the
Lancashire County Council.

13. Hospital

Bolton Royal Infirmary; Bolton District General Hospital,
Farnworth; Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan; Chorley
and District General Hospital.

14. Laboratory Facilities

Regional Hospital Laboratories at Bolton and Wigan Infirmaries.

15. Maternity Homes

Haslan, Havercroft and Heaton Grange Maternity Homes, Bolton,
Bolton District General Hospital and Billinge Hospital.

16. Midwifery Service

Domiciliary midwives employed by the Lancashire County Council
practice in the district.

17. Nursing Homes

Newlands Nursing Home, Bolton

Christopher Nursing Home, Wigan

18. Unmarried Mothers and Illigitimate Children

Provision for their care is made by the Lancashire County Council.

19. Council for Moral Welfare Work.

Miss Rigby, 24 Acresfield, Bolton. Tel. Bolton 26524

20. Welfare Services

Under arrangements made by the Lancashire County Council.

cont'd

Apply to Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh.
Residential accommodation at Atherleigh Grange,
Hourigan House, Leigh and Winifred Kettle House,
Westhoughton.

21. X - Ray Facilities

Available at Bolton Royal Infirmary and the Wigan Infirmary.
Special facilities for Chest X-Ray at the Hospital Board's
Dispensaries and Chest Clinics.

S E C T I O N C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply - The Urban District have their own water undertaking and the supply is obtained from a catchment area of some 170 acres of land owned and controlled by the Council.

The surface water and water from land springs is stored in a 20 million gallon impounding reservoir. The catchment area is mainly moorland in character and is situated in the Horwich Urban District.

The undertaking is adequate for the needs of the district at the present time, and bulk supplies are provided to the Adlington Urban District and to the Makerfield Water Board. All houses in the district are provided with water from public mains.

A total of 24 samples of water have been taken for bacteriological examination.

8 samples were taken from the raw water entering the Reservoir:-

5 of these samples were satisfactory; 3 of the samples were unsatisfactory.

16 samples taken from the Distribution Mains, 14 of which were satisfactory; 2 were unsatisfactory but these were found satisfactory on resampling.

Continuous chlorination is carried out to the water as it enters into the supply mains at the Council's Reservoir.

No restrictions on use of water were enforced during 1965.

Works have now commenced on the laying of a 15" diam. water main from Vale Avenue, Horwich to the Council's Wilderswood Reservoir and this will complete the provision of a duplicate main, from the Council's reservoir to Blackrod.

Drainage and Sewerage - An additional 39 new dwellings have been connected into the sewers and this has been the only extension to the sewer system. Tenders are to be obtained for the renewal of a short section of sewer in Station Road and to discharge the Station Road Area into the Horwich Disposal Works. This will enable the trade waste of Messrs. Rivington Carpets Limited to be treated at the Horwich Works.

Public Cleansing - There are 1,764 refuse bins to be emptied each week and a weekly collection has been maintained over the year with the exception of one week in July and September when the workmen had their annual holidays. Approximately 1,736 tons of domestic refuse was collected and disposed of.

Refuse bins for domestic properties are supplied by the Council as a charge on the rate fund.

The refuse is disposed of by tipping on lowlying agricultural land which is being re-levelled and graded to adjoining field level.

One refuse collecting vehicle of a dual-up type, having a 12 cu. yard body fitted, is used for refuse collection and three loaders and one driver are regularly employed on this work.

Sanitary Inspections - During the year some 86 complaints relating to sanitary matters including refuse collection were received. Throughout the year, 709 premises were visited for all purposes. Ten informal notices being served and five Statutory notices served.

Factories Acts 1937 to 1959 - In accordance with the provisions of Section 128 (3) of the Factories Act 1937, the Medical Officer of Health is required to report specifically on the administration of matters under Part 1 and 8 of this Act, which are administered by the District Council.

PART I OF THE ACT

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	-	-	-	-
2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	11	9	-	-
3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	-	-	-	-
	11	9	-	-

Cases in which DEFECTS were found

See overleaf

Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted.	
	Found	Remid- ied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	Nil				
Overcrowding (S.2.)	Nil				
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	Nil				
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	Nil				
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	Nil				
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)	Nil				
a) Insufficient					
b) Unsuitable or defective					
c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work).	Nil				
Total	Nil				

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Shops - Shops were inspected under the Shops Act and 26 Inspections were carried out for this purpose.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963 - The following types of premises have been registered under the above Act:-

Class of Premises	No. registered.	No. of Persons Employed	
		Male	Female
Offices	3	5	1
Retail Shops	10	2	21
Wholesale Departments	1	3	-
Catering Establishments	3	6	15
Canteens	-	-	-
Fuel Storage Premises	-	-	-
	—	—	—
Total	17	16	37
	—	—	—

Fourteen premises have been visited and fourteen inspections made for the purposes of the Act.

Smoke Abatement - Recordings of the measurement of smoke and sulphur dioxide have been taken over the year from a station set up at the Council Offices. The following table shows the average daily and the highest daily over the months for 1965. The measurements are in micro-grammes which are the small particles remaining suspended in the air and capable of being inhaled. The heavier particles generally fall to the ground.

1965	Smoke Particles		Sulphur Dioxide	
	Average	Highest Day Recorded	Average	Highest Day Recorded
January	117	273	167	410
February	183	929	166	850
March	134	399	240	687
April	91	240	113	305
May	59	251	121	325
June	43	108	73	204
July	37	76	48	86
August	47	135	63	186
September	90	169	102	178
October	141	317	201	454
November	137	568	172	589
December	27	27	71	71
	(Meter defective)			

SECTION D

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply - 63 samples of milk have been taken and submitted for bacteriological examination.

9 samples submitted for Tuberculosis - 8 negative; 1 no result

54 samples submitted for Brucellosis - (Dry test) 7 positive; 47 negative.

Resampling of individual cows in herd when positive results have been obtained from bulk samples and isolation of cows excreting Brucella and finally removal from herd after being identified.

Food Hygiene - All shops and food preparing premises have been visited during the year. General conditions were found to be satisfactory and matters of detail on the Food Hygiene Regulations were discussed with the occupier of the premises and it was not found necessary to institute proceedings.

The following table shows the number and type selling food -

General Grocers and Provision Dealers	15
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	1
Fishmongers	-
Meat Shops	1
Bakers and Confectioners	-
Fried Fish Shops	2
Sweet Shops (including ice cream and minerals)	1
Licensed premises, Clubs, Cafes, Snack Bars, and similar catering establishments	13

Food Poisoning - No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

Slaughterhouses - There are no slaughterhouses in use in the district all carcass meat being slaughtered outside the District.

SECTION E

HOUSING

At the present time the Local Authority has no house-building projects under way, and slum clearance is only being undertaken in a small way. Occupiers of unfit houses are rehoused when Council houses become available this being when existing tenants are vacating their houses.

Private development is still being undertaken during the year but at a reduced scale, there being some 39 dwellings completed. This, to a large extent, is due to the effects of the 'Squeeze' which has effected the building trade and the difficulty of prospective purchasers obtaining Mortgage facilities.

The standard of housing in the district has now improved, of the 1,499 dwellings 850 are of post-war constructions, of these 308 are Council owned dwellings and some 213 unfit houses have been demolished.

The following shows in detail the work carried out during the year under review:-

a) Inspection of dwelling houses -

No. of houses inspected for defects	143
No. of inspections made	368
No. of dwellings in which defects were remedied	10

b) Slum Clearance -

No. of Demolition Orders made	7
No. of Unfit Houses Demolished	-
No. of Families Re-Housed	3
No. of Unfit Houses Closed	2
No. of Unfit Houses made fit after determination of Closing Order	-

Improvement of older houses - The following table shows the extent of this work during 1966.

a) Improvement Grants

No applications for Improvement Grants were received.

Offensive Trades - There are no premises in the District in relation to an establishment where an offensive trade is carried out.

Common Lodging Houses - None registered.

Houses Let in Lodgings - None registered.

Swimming Baths and Pools - There are no public owned swimming pools in the district. One private owned swimming pool is now being used by children from two of the Junior Schools on one day per week. Three samples of water have been taken from the pool and submitted for bacteriological analysis.

Disinfestation - Five houses found to be infested by cockroaches were treated during the year. Disinfestation was carried out by spraying with D. D. T. having pybuthrin added and was found to be satisfactory.

Schools - There are three junior and one secondary modern school in the district and the sanitary accommodation is adequate in numbers for the schools. At two junior schools the closet accommodation is detached from the school buildings and it is found during the winter months, the water supply to the flushing cistern is prone to freezing, owing to their exposed position.

At one of the junior schools, a new sanitary block has been built attached to the main building which improves facilities and overcomes the problem of frozen pipes.

Washing facilities are adequate at all the schools and meals for the school children are prepared outside the district and brought to the schools in insulated containers.

Rag flock and other Filling Materials Act 1951 - No premises have been registered under the above Act.

Rodent Control - Complaints of rodents have been investigated and treatment carried out at the following premises.

	Type of property		
	Non Agricultural Dwelling- Houses	Other	Agricultural
No. of properties inspected after notification	23	-	31
No. of properties found to be infested by	Rats	8	-
	Mice	13	-
No. of properties treated	21	-	6

Several treatments at the Council's Refuse tip have been carried out and the Council's Sewers have also been treated.

b) Standard Grants

No. of applications received		No. of applications approved		No. of Houses improved	
Owner occupier	Tenanted	Owner Occupier	Tenanted	Owner Occupier	Tenanted
7	-	7	-	6	6
Amenities Provided					
Fixed Bath	Wash Hand Basin	Hot Water Supply		Inside W.C.	Food Store
4	4	4		6	5

The Authority has taken no action under the Housing Act 1964 where Local Authorities can require owners to avail themselves of Improvement Grants.

House letting - Nineteen houses were re-let to tenants from the Council's Housing Waiting list.

At the present time, there are 41 applicants on the Council's Housing Waiting List, of which 19 are at the present time residing outside the district. Fifty-one applications for aged persons bungalows are also listed, ten of which are from people residing outside the district.

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and control over Infectious and other Diseases

Diphtheria	No cases notified
Encephalitis	No cases notified
Erysipelas	No cases notified
Malaria	No cases notified
Measles	32 cases were reported during the year-
	0- 1- 2- 3- 4- 5- 10- 15- 25-
	2 2 7 5 8 7 1 - -
Meningococcal Infections	No cases notified
Paratyphoid Fever	No cases notified
Pneumonia	No cases notified
Polionyelitis	No cases notified
Scarlet Fever	One case aged 2 years 10 months
Small Pox (Varola)	No cases notified
Tuberculosis	No cases notified
Typhoid Fever	No cases notified
Whooping Cough	One case aged 4 years
